

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of June 20, 2006 is respectfully requested.

On pages 2-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected pending claims 16-29, 31-33, and 35, including independent claims 16 and 32, as being either anticipated by or unpatentable over the Burkhardt reference (US 5,634,378). However, the Examiner also indicated that dependent claims 30 and 34 contained allowable subject matter. As a result, the claims have now been amended as indicated above, and it is respectfully submitted that the amended claims are clearly patentable for the reasons discuss below.

Firstly, independent claim 16 has been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 30, and claim 30 has been cancelled. Therefore, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 16 is clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

In addition, independent claim 32 has now been amended so as to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 34, and claim 34 has also been cancelled. Therefore, in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claim 32 is now clearly patentable over the prior art of record.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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